

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHOICE

Choosing Quality in Academics and Research

Dr. Buddy Sirikul's expectations were not particularly high when he first visited Southeastern to interview for a faculty position in the Department of Kinesiology and Health Studies. A graduate of the University of Alabama who has held two post-doctoral positions and an assistant professorship at Samford University, he applied for the position because a friend had spoken highly of the university and because it was close to his family and friends.

His interview visit was a revelation. Dr. Sirikul was excited about the quality of academics as well as the active research endeavors at Southeastern. He also got good vibes from both the people and the place. Joining the faculty in fall 2006 he has found Southeastern to be a "good fit." "Southeastern and Hammond have really grown on me," he said.

"I really enjoy interacting with the students who bring new perspectives and curiosity to the subject matter," he said. "I have a lot of freedom to make the classes more application- and 'real world'-based, rather than just theory and 'book learning'."

In addition to teaching, Dr. Sirikul is active in research. "My interests lie with physical activity and body composition," he said. "I strive to find out how people can improve their quality of life from a physical fitness standpoint. Americans are living longer, but not necessarily better."

An environment that produces quality academics and research makes Southeastern a university of choice - not only for students, but for faculty as well.

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Choosing Community and Service

Joan Gunter's job as director of Southeastern's new Livingston Parish Literacy and Technology Center is a "perfect fit" - and the fulfillment of a long-term goal. Even while she was happily employed at the University of Phoenix, she hoped one day to work at Southeastern.

"It was my Sunday morning ritual," she said. "I would log in to Southeastern's Web site to view the employment opportunities. Each time I visited the Web site or the campus, I saw evidence of growth and progress -- new buildings, new football team, enhanced academic programs. Southeastern's demonstrated commitment to the community was key in my decision to pursue and accept employment here."

As Livingston's first director, Joan's task was not only to get the center up and running, but also to embrace the community it serves. She has been busily promoting the center's activities and personally joining in community events. For instance, she participated in the Livingston Parish Community Leadership and Economic Development Program, and has been elected to the board of directors for the Greater Denham Springs Chamber of Commerce.

"The Livingston Parish/Southeastern partnership is a cooperative endeavor that gives me membership in two important Louisiana families," Gunter said. "The programs we have implemented influence our students in a positive yet practical way."

By choosing Southeastern, Joan as well as other Southeastern faculty and staff, choose to be an active part of our surrounding community, providing services that impact it in a positive way.

